

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, TU, CY

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI PRESS ON US-GREEK RELATIONS, AUGUST 10-13

REF: THESSALONIKI'S 446 AND 463

1. LOCAL PRESS OVER PAST WEEKEND AND FIRST DAYS THIS WEEK GAVE HEAVY, PROMINENT PLAY TO US-GREEK RELATIONS IN CONTEXT OF CYPRUS CRISIS. MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS WHICH FOLLOW PROVIDE REPRESENTATIVE CROSS-SECTION OF MEDIA TREATMENT OF SUBJECT HERE, AND GENERAL FLAVOR OF COMMENTARY WE HAVE BEEN HEARING FROM OUR GREEK CONTACTS.

2. UNATTRIBUTED ARTICLE APPEARING IN "THESSALONIKI" AUG 10 STATED THAT VISIT OF "HIGH-RANKING AMERICAN PERSONALITY" TO GREECE UNDER CONSIDERATION AS GOOD-WILL GESTURE TO "RE-WARM GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SHAKEN BY STRANGE AMERICAN ATTITUDE IN CYPRUS CRISIS". ARTICLE REPORTS THAT "SERIES OF OTHER AMERICAN ACTIVITIES EXPECTED" IN EFFORT OFFSET US "RESPONSIBILITIES", AND THAT USG UNHAPPY OVER "ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN WAGED BY SIGNIFICANT PART OF GREEK PRESS".

3. IN HIS WEEKLY POLITICAL REVIEW COLUMN FOLLOWING DAY "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" EDITOR NICOLAOS MERTZOS NOTES DR. KISSINGER'S

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RETENTION AS "HEAD OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY WHICH DECIDES

FATE OF ALL PEOPLES OF WORLD (E.G., CYPRUS AND GREECE)".
MERTZOS OBSERVES THAT PRES FORD'S MESSAGE TO KARAMANLIS
"ALL OF A SUDDEN GIVES SOME HOPE THAT AMERICAN POLICY IS
CHANGING IN FAVOR OF GREECE". HE ADDS THAT ATHENS FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S "DECISIVE ANNOUNCEMENT AGAINST MOSCOW IS SUPPOSED
NOT TO BE EMPTY WORD, AND SHOULD BE BASED ON SOME PROMISE
OF AMERICAN AID, WE HOPE".

4. QUOTING VARIOUS FOREIGN PRESS SOURCES, "VORRAS" SENIOR
EDITOR ELIAS KYROU ALSO ON AUG 11 NOTED IN HIS COLUMN
"APPARENT CHANGE IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION" AGAINST
TURKS SINCE RETURN OF KARAMANLIS. ALTHOUGH THIS DOES NOT
MEAN "CHANGE IN POLICY OF GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE PLOTTED
CONSPIRACY AGAINST GREECE", KYROU WRITES, IT DOES POINT UP
FACT THAT "WHEN NATION IS HEADED BY GOVERNMENT THAT IS SERIOUS
AND REPRESENTATIVE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ITS ENEMIES TO ATTACK
IT". HAD GREECE HAD SUCH A GOVERNMENT BEFORE, ARTICLE
CONTENDS, TURKS WOULD HAVE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO "ACHIEVE
THEIR PLAN (TO PARTITION CYPRUS) AS PREPARED FOR THEM BY
MR. KISSINGER", AND WHICH AMERICANS HAD FAVORED AT LEAST
SINCE 1964. IT CONCLUDES THAT GREEKS SHOULD LEARN SIMPLE
DOCTRINE TAUGHT AT THEIR WAR COLLEGE WHICH TURKS NEVER
FORGET, NAMELY THAT "POLITICIANS SET STRATEGY AND WIN WARS;
MILITARY ONLY WIN ON BATTLEFIELD". COMMENT: INTERESTING
THOUGHT FROM TRUCULENT EX-JUNTA ARDENT.

5. ALL THESSALONIKI DAILIES CARRIED SAME DAY LENGTHY,
PLAINTIVE MESSAGE FROM HOLY COMMUNITY OF MT. ATHOS TO GREEK
PEOPLE INQUIRING HOW NATION, ALL OF A SUDDEN, "FACES REAL
GREEK TRAGEDY--WITH APPARENT INDIFFERENCE, IF NOT MALEVOLENT
CONSENT, OF OUR FRIENDS". IT ASKS, "WHERE ARE THE LOYAL
ALLIANCES,--OUR PROTECTOR, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE
BROTHERLY CHRISTIAN PEOPLES OF EUROPE", WHO HAVE PROVED TO BE
"WEAKER THAN A SHADOW, MORE DECEITFUL THAN A DREAM". THEY
ARE WATCHING AS "SAD SPECTATORS, A TRAGEDY WHICH REFLECTS
THE BARBARIAN INSTINCTS OF AN INFERIOR ASIATIC PEOPLE,
AND OUR HUMILIATED EMPTY ARROGANCE". TO QUESTIONS OF "HOW
HAVE WE MANAGED TO REACH THIS POINT? IS THERE A WAY OUT
OF THIS DEADLOCK?" MESSAGE RESPONDS: ONLY THROUGH FAITH,
PENITENCE, AND SACRIFICES WITH WHICH GREEK PEOPLE "HAVE ALWAYS
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DEFEATED THEIR ENEMIES".

6. ALL PAPERS GAVE PROMINENT PLAY AUG 11 AND 13 TO JACK
ANDERSON PIECE ON CYPRUS UNDER SUCH HEADLINES AS "KISSINGER
FINALLY IMPOSED PARTITION; PLAN DISCLOSED BY AMERICAN
JOURNALIST" (VORRAS), AND "KISSINGER INTENTIONALLY TOLERATED
INVASION, ANDERSON CHARGES, KNOWING THIS WOULD LEAD TO PARTITION
AND HELP TO ESTABLISH BASES" (MAKEDONIA). LATTER FOLLOWED

ANDERSON REPRINT DIRECTLY WITH RECENT AVIATION WEEK ARTICLE
ON ICBM DETECTION RADARS ON CYPRUS.

7. PROMINENT TREATMENT ALSO GIVEN AMB TASCA'S STATEMENT
BY ALL LOCAL PAPERS AUG 12 AND 13. OTHER PAPERS PRESENTED
STATEMENT AS SEPARATE BOXED ITEM, BUT VORRAS RAN IT AFTER
AP REPORT OF STATE SPOKESMAN (ANDERSON) PRESS BRIEFING ON
US POSITION ON CYPRUS ISSUE AND DENIAL THAT AMB TASCA HAD
FAILED TRANSMIT INSTRUCTIONS, UNDER HEADING "STATE DEPARTMENT
WASHING ITS HANDS OF CRISIS IN GREECE AND CYPRUS".

8. IN HIS AUGUST 13 COLUMN, EDITOR KYROU WRITES THAT
SOVIET UNION ORIGINALLY AGREED TO TURKISH INVASION TO "PROVE
THAT NATO IS ONLY A LEGEND", AND IN BELIEF THAT WAR BETWEEN
GREECE AND TURKEY AND MORE GENERAL TURMOIL MIGHT FOLLOW.
NOW, HOWEVER, SOVIETS ARE ALARMED, SAYS KYROU, AS "AMERICAN
PLAN" UNFOLDS TO PARTITION ISLAND AND INSTALL TURKEY ON
WHAT WOULD "BECOME A NATO, THAT IS AMERICAN, BASE". US
PRESSURE ON GREECE IS EVIDENT IN PRES FORD'S MESSAGE TO
KARAMANLIS, ARTICLE CONTINUES, WHICH IN CALLING FOR "CALMNESS
AND MODERATION, REALLY MEANS THAT GREECE SHOULD AGREE WITH
WHAT HAS HAPPENED". THIS NOT UNEXPECTED, KYROU STATES,
REPEATING EARLIER CHARGES OF "KISSINGER PLAN", NOW REINFORCED
BY "AMERICAN COMMENTATOR ANDERSON". WARM MESSAGES FROM
TURKISH LEADERS TO PRES NIXON CITING "RESTORATION OF FRIENDLY
RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND TURKEY" REFLECTED THEIR SATISFACTION
OVER RECEIVING "HALF" (SIC) OF A PARTITIONED CYPRUS WHICH,
EDITORIAL WARNS, IS BUT AN INTERMEDIATE STEP IN TOTAL
TURKISH TAKE-OVER OF ISLAND.

9. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ARTICLES CONTINUE TO CONVEY CONSIDERABLE
BITTERNESS AND INVECTIVE, THEY APPEAR TO BE SLIGHTLY MORE
RESTRAINED, AND TO FOREGO SOME OF THE WILDER RHETORIC POURED
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FORTH BY THE PRESS HERE IN RECENT WEEKS. TENDENCY TOWARD
SOME HONEST SOUL-SEARCHING, WHICH CONGEN FIRST NOTED IN
THESSALONIKI 463, ALSO SEEMS TO BE ADVANCING IN CERTAIN
AREAS. HOWEVER, THESE TRENDS COULD BE REVERSED INSTANTLY
IN EMOTIONAL LOCAL ATMOSPHERE SHOULD EVENTS TAKE TURN
CONSIDERED UNFAVORABLE TO GREECE.
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